

NOVEMBER 2025



Every Kid Has the Right to a Full Plate

Dear friend,

Recently, I visited a school cafeteria in Silver Spring, Maryland, not far from my own home. I thought of my three children as I watched kids swap jokes, share smiles and enjoy lunch together. I also thought about how much potential is sitting at every one of those tables—and how our policies and systems either nurture or limit that potential.

Despite this year's devastating cuts to SNAP—a critical lifeline for kids and families—one thing is clear: **Share Our Strength through the No Kid Hungry campaign will continue to fight for kids and families who deserve to thrive, not just survive.**

We were built for this moment and we're not slowing down. Here are some of the ways we leveraged our convening power and collective action to fight for kids and families this year:

- **MADE SURE KIDS GOT NUTRITIOUS SUMMER MEALS.**

We helped states adopt and implement Summer EBT—grocery benefits that help families when school meals are unavailable—and helped millions of meals get to rural kids through family-friendly pick-up services.

- **BUILT SOLID PATHWAYS TO FAMILY FINANCIAL SECURITY.**

Our second annual Bridge Builders Summit created actionable connections to expand economic opportunities for families and single mothers. With our support, our partners, the Jeremiah Program and the Urban Institute released a policy agenda to remove economic barriers for single mothers.

- **HELD BACK BIGGER CUTS TO SNAP.**

Working with our partners, we prevented much larger federal cuts to SNAP and expanded outreach to families. And during No Kid Hungry's Culinary Advocacy Day, chefs and culinary professionals from across the country urged lawmakers to protect this vital anti-hunger program.

Kids and families can't wait for the food they need today. Every child in this country deserves the chance to grow up nourished, supported and free to chase their dreams and goals. But cuts to SNAP and other federal child nutrition programs will hit families hard. We must act now to strengthen the programs that put food on the table, so kids have the nourishment they need every day.

Please consider us in your end-of-year giving. Your gift helps feed kids now and supports long-term solutions to end childhood hunger.

I know that this vision—No Kid Hungry—is one worth fighting for, and I am so grateful to be in this fight with each of you. Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Anne Filipic

ANNE FILIPIC

**Chief Executive Officer
Share Our Strength**



A Message From Cesar Zapata Chef and No Kid Hungry Supporter

When my family came to the U.S. in the late 1980s from Medellín, Colombia, we lived in Paterson, New Jersey, which is where I spent the rest of my childhood through early adulthood. I started cooking at a young age because my parents worked multiple jobs. I would follow the handwritten recipes and instructions my mother left for me, so my family had food on the table when they came home.

Because we lived in an under-resourced city, hunger was very real for us. That upbringing shaped me, and it's one of the reasons I fell in love with cooking and hospitality. Eventually, I moved to Miami to help open the Four Seasons, worked at the Setai, and then I took a leap into entrepreneurship.

My journey with No Kid Hungry started when I volunteered for events like Taste of the Nation in Houston, and at a No Kid Hungry Dinner when I moved to Miami. It struck me how chefs came together cooking, connecting and raising money for a purpose that really mattered. But as I learned more about the mission, it hit home—I was one of those kids. My family did the best they could, but there were days we'd eat canned sardines with rice because that's what we could afford.

It's been over a decade since I first got involved with No Kid Hungry, and I'm still deeply committed. In addition to currently serving as Chef Co-Chair for South Florida, I'm a proud member of the Leadership Council. I also participate in advocacy trips to Capitol Hill.

This past July, I joined a group of chefs and Leadership Council members from across the country in Washington, D.C., for Culinary Advocacy Day. It was my third time lobbying on the Hill, and every time it feels powerful. We had the opportunity to meet with federal representatives to share our lived experiences and advocate for continued support of programs like SNAP and Summer EBT.

One of the most impactful parts of the trip was visiting an elementary school in Maryland where 80% of students rely on free or reduced-price school meals. Seeing the joy on their faces while they ate and played reminded me of myself as a child. I know what it's like to be a kid wondering if there will be food on the table that night. Programs like school breakfast, lunch and summer meals were a safety net for me growing up. Now, as a chef and a dad, I can't imagine my own son going through what I went through.

When you give to No Kid Hungry, you're supporting programs that feed millions of children and create long-term solutions. It's easy to feel helpless in the face of big issues, but this is one place where your dollar directly translates into meals, stability and a better future for the next generation.

Sincerely,



CESAR ZAPATA

Chef/Owner, Phuc Yea



As I learned more about the mission, it hit home — I was one of those kids.”



That upbringing shaped me.”

Our Impact

Here are some of the ways you helped No Kid Hungry fill plates for children and families across the U.S. this past year.



188 million meals

Our grant support helped schools and community organizations serve **more than 188 million meals** to kids and families last school year.



**\$14 million
invested in 322
school districts**

We invested **more than \$14 million** in **322 school districts** and organizations working to feed kids across the United States—enabling partners to purchase food and equipment, helping families enroll in grocery benefits, and getting meals to families living in remote communities.



**Flexible summer
meals in 350
more rural
counties**

By providing grant funding, technical assistance, communications tools and other support, we helped **40 states, territories and Tribal Nations** implement Summer EBT in 2025. Additionally, we helped expand flexible summer feeding programs in more than **350 counties** across the country.



**Summer EBT
to more than
18 million kids**

Before the new summer meals programs we advocated for were implemented, just under 3 million kids got free summer meals. In 2024, Summer EBT benefits were distributed to **more than 18 million kids**, according to preliminary data from USDA. We continue to see rapid growth—and play a key role—in the implementation of these two new programs.



**3,700+
households
reached with
income growth
partnership**

Through our family economic mobility work and funding support, single moms increased their income. As of last fall, our partnership with LIFT enabled us to reach **more than 3,700 households**, and on average, participants saw an annual income increase of **\$18,000**.

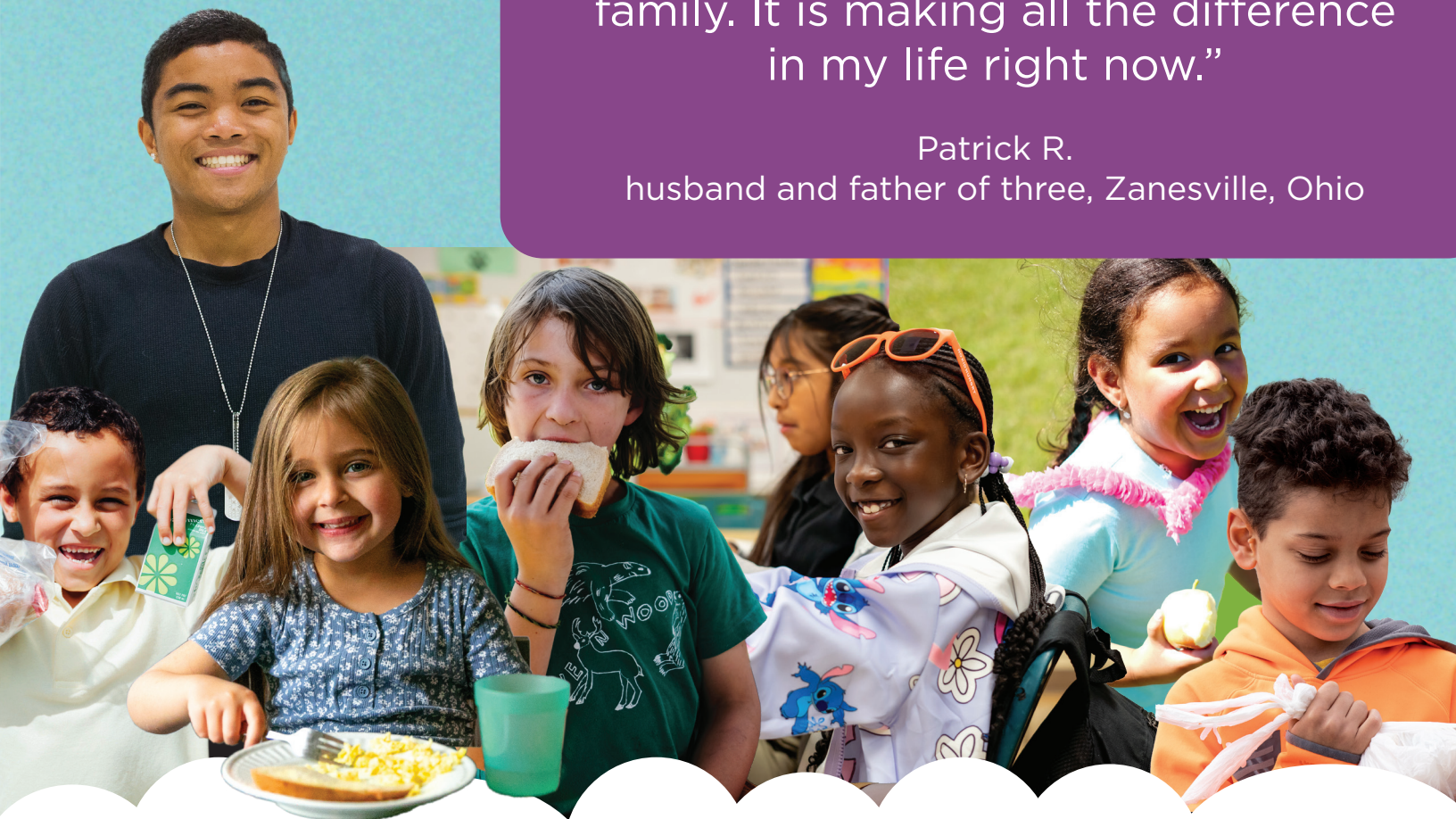


“

SNAP benefits are more than just a handout. They're a 'hand up' for my family. It is making all the difference in my life right now.”

Patrick R.

husband and father of three, Zanesville, Ohio



We can't end childhood hunger without our No Kid Hungry champions—**parents, teachers, bus drivers, community leaders—and you.**

Your support helps No Kid Hungry provide critical funds that help communities and schools implement creative solutions to feed students and expand access to important benefit programs. Millions of children and families continue to face hunger in the U.S. today, but this is a problem we can solve together.

WAYS TO GIVE

ONLINE

NoKidHungry.org/Gift

MAIL

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